



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Purple Paint Law Gives Landowners Option of Marking Trees or Posts to Prevent Trespassing

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Illinois law allows Illinois landowners or lessees the option of using purple paint markings on trees or posts on their property as a “no trespassing notice.” The Purple Paint Law is designed as an alternative which Illinois landowners can use to protect their property from trespassing.

Provisions of the law require that the purple paint marks used to designate no trespassing notice must be either:

1. A vertical line of at least 8 inches in length. The bottom of the mark shall be between 3 feet and 5 feet high. Each mark shall be no more than 100 feet from another such mark and be readily visible to any person approaching the property, or
2. A post capped or otherwise marked on at least its top 2 inches. The bottom of the cap or mark shall be between 3 feet and 5 feet 6 inches high. Posts so marked shall be no more than 36 feet apart and be readily visible to any person approaching the property. Prior to applying a cap or mark that is visible from both sides of a fence shared by different property owners or lessees, all such owners or lessees must agree to the decision to post their own property.

Trespassing on property marked for no trespassing is a Class B misdemeanor, except when a person trespasses using a motor vehicle if the marked area is an orchard; an enclosed area containing livestock; a barn or other agricultural building containing livestock; or, a field that is used or capable of being used for growing crops. Such trespassing constitutes a Class A misdemeanor.

No landowner or lessee is authorized to post purple marks if doing so would violate any applicable law, rule, ordinance, order, covenant, bylaw, declaration, regulation, restriction, contract, or other instrument.

The Purple Paint Law does not apply to real property located in a municipality of over 2,000,000 inhabitants.

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